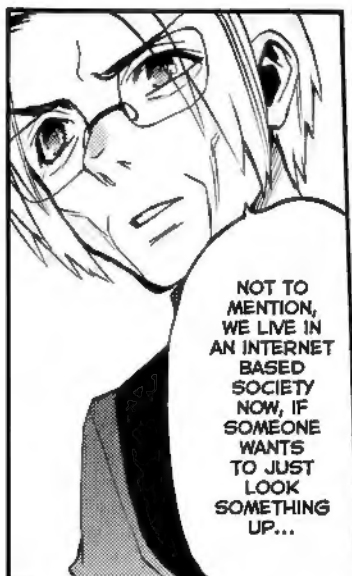
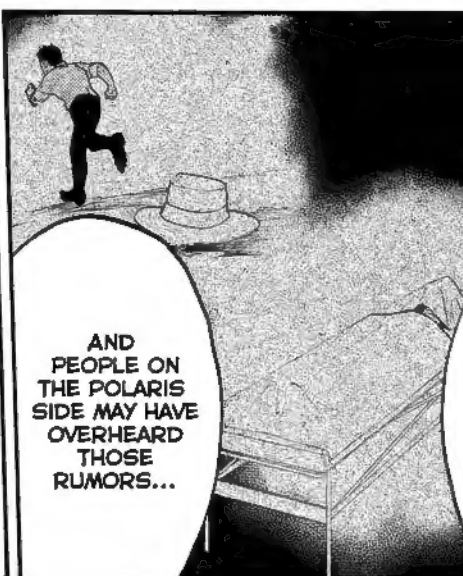


A
VISITOR?

IF I
RECALL
CORRECTLY,
IT MUST BE
THE VISITOR
THAT'S COMING
AND GOING
FROM THEIR
SETTLEMENT
AND TELLING
THEM VARIOUS
THINGS.



NOT TO
MENTION,
WE LIVE IN
AN INTERNET
BASED
SOCIETY
NOW, IF
SOMEONE
WANTS
TO JUST
LOOK
SOMETHING
UP...



AND
PEOPLE ON
THE POLARIS
SIDE MAY HAVE
OVERHEARD
THOSE
RUMORS...

SO THE
VILLAGERS
BEGAN
MURMURING
IT WAS THE
CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-
SAMA...

ONE
MEMBER
OF POLARIS
WENT MISSING,
AND ONE PERSON
IN HINAMIZAWA
DIED OF ILLNESS
ON THE DAY OF
WATANAGASHI
LAST YEAR.



BUT IT'S
KIND OF
TROUBLING
THAT THIS
SO-CALLED
VISITOR SEEMS
TO BE IDLY
FANNING
POLARIS'S
ANXIETY...



AS LONG
AS THEY'RE
TRIGGERED,
OF COURSE IT
WOULD MAKE
THEM WANT TO
LOOK INTO
HINAMIZAWA'S
DARK PAST.

...I
SEE...


JUST LIKE
HOW WE
DIDN'T TELL
KEITAROU
AND THE
OTHER KIDS
ABOUT THIS
STUFF, BUT
THEY LEARNED
IT ANYWAY...



IT'S
MESSED
UP THEY
CAN'T EVEN
SAY HELLO
TO THEIR
FELLOW
PEOPLE!

WE LIVE IN
THE SAME
VILLAGE, SO
IT MAKES
SENSE
FOR US T'
HELP EACH
OTHER AN'
GET ALONG!

THOSE
PEOPLE
DON'T
KNOW
NOTHIN'!!




ON THE
OTHER HAND,
THERE ARE
PATIENTS
ON THE
HINAMIZAWA
SIDE WITH
POLARIS
SYNDROME...



EVEN IT MAKES OUR
BID AS A WORLD
HERITAGE SITE FAIL,
IT'S A SMALL
PRICE TO PAY TO
GET 'EM OUTTA
HERE!!

WE SHOULD
APPEAL TO
SOCIETY AT
LARGE AN'
CALL OUT
THEIR
WEIRDNESS!



THEY
SHOULD
BE WILLIN'
TO WORK
WITH US....!!



IRIE, AS A
DOCTOR OF
COURSE
YA UNDER-
STAND,
RIGHT?

THE
SPIRIT
OF
MUTUAL
AID IS
CRITICAL.



THIS CAN
IN TURN BE
OBSERVED IN
THE COUNCIL
MEETINGS WHERE
POLARIS IS
QUESTIONED!

PEOPLE
WITH A STRONG
SENSE OF JUSTICE,
AND UNFULFILLED
EXPECTATIONS OF
THEM!!

THERE ARE
VICTIMS OF
HARASSMENT
THAT APPEAR
TO BE
POLARIS'S
HANDWORK!



WHILE
POLARIS IS
FRIGHTENED
OF THE
VILLAGERS
AND IS
TRYING
TO KEEP
THEIR
DISTANCE,


THE
VILLAGERS
ARE ACTING
UNDER THE
EXPECTATION
OF BUILDING
COMRADERY
WITH THEM.

BUT,
WITH THAT
EXPECTATION
UNFULFILLED,

THE
VILLAGERS
ARE INCENSED,
AND THEIR
DESIRE FOR
JUSTICE HAS
HASTENED...

AND
THUS,


DRIVING
POLARIS
TO BECOME
EVEN MORE
PARANOID,
IN A VICIOUS
CYCLE...




POLARIS
SYNDROME
SEEMS TO
BE SPREAD
THROUGH
CONTACT...
SO GIVEN
HOW CLOSE
THE VILLAGERS
ARE TO ONE
ANOTHER,
IF A FEW ARE
INFECTED
THE PATHOGEN
WOULD
SPREAD
EXPLOSIVELY...

I ONLY
SEE THE
PATIENTS
WHO COME
TO THE CLINIC,
SO THERE ARE
POTENTIALLY
MANY MORE
LIKE THEM
OUT THERE.

...



IF THEY
ENGAGE WITH
ONE ANOTHER
WITHOUT
RESPECTING
EACH OTHER'S
PHYSICAL AND
EMOTIONAL
SPACE, IT'LL
TAKE A TOLL
AND CAUSE THEIR
SYMPTOMS TO
PROGRESS...



...IN
OTHER
WORDS,
EVERYONE IN
THE VILLAGE
IS ALREADY
SUFFERING
FROM POLARIS
SYNDROME...?

...MOST
LIKELY...



EVERYONE
IN THE VILLAGE
HAS ALREADY
REACHED L2
OR L3 IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE
SYNDROME...

AND THOSE
WITH THE
STRONGEST
SYMPTOMS HAVE
LIKELY REACHED
L4 OR L5
MINUS.

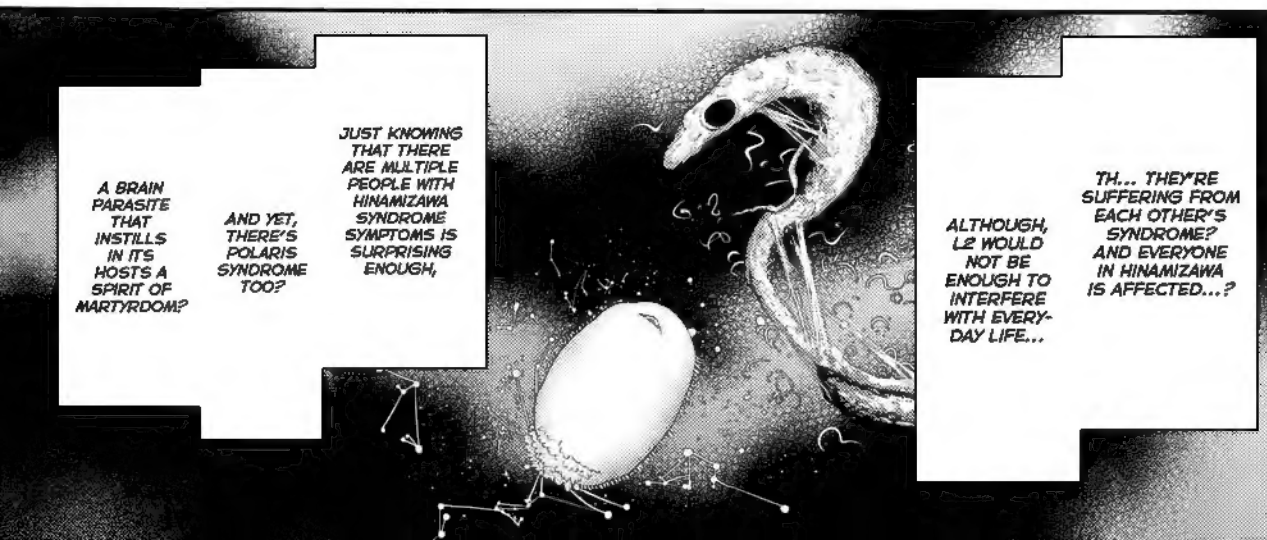


BUT THE
HEAVY MENTAL
STRESS MAY BE
CAUSING HOSTS
TO DEVELOP
SYMPTOMS
FROM THE
PARASITE
THEY ARE NOT
ACCUSTOMED
TO...



POLARIS
SYNDROME
SEEMS TO HAVE
INTEGRATED
WITH THE POLARIS
PEOPLE AND
BEEN RENDERED
HARMLESS TO
ITS ORIGINAL
HOSTS...

JUST AS
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME
HAS GROWN
PHYSICALLY
HARMLESS
TO THE
VILLAGERS,



A BRAIN
PARASITE
THAT
INSTILLS
IN ITS
HOSTS A
SPIRIT OF
MARTYRDOM?

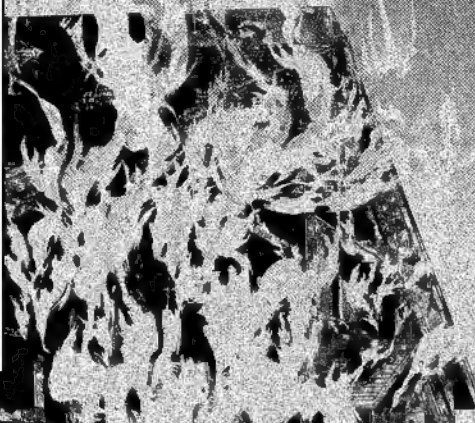
AND YET,
THERE'S
POLARIS
SYNDROME
TOO?

JUST KNOWING
THAT THERE
ARE MULTIPLE
PEOPLE WITH
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME
SYMPTOMS IS
SURPRISING
ENOUGH,

ALTHOUGH,
L2 WOULD
NOT BE
ENOUGH TO
INTERFERE
WITH EVERY-
DAY LIFE...

TH... THEY'RE
SUFFERING FROM
EACH OTHER'S
SYNDROME?
AND EVERYONE
IN HINAMIZAWA
IS AFFECTED...?

IN THE
FIRST
FRAGMENT,
WHEN THE
MAEBARA
HOUSE WAS
BURNED
DOWN IN A
MURDER
SUICIDE
INCIDENT...



BUT...
WAIT...



THEY SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
AFFLICTED
WITH THE
PARANOIA
CHARACTERISTIC
OF HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME...



IT WAS THE
MEMBERS
OF POLARIS
WHO WENT
ON THE
ATTACK...

IF IRIE'S
SPEC-
ULATION IS
CORRECT,
THEN...



I... HAVE A
BAD FEELING
ABOUT THIS...

SWEAT...

THE
WORST
CASE
IMAGIN-
ABLE...

ASSUMING
IT'S JUST THE
PARANOIA OF
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME,
THAT IS...

PARANOIA
SHOULDN'T
GIVE THEM SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE
TENDENCIES...

WHAT
COULD
HAPPEN...?


IF THEY
FULLY
REACH
TERMINAL
SYMPTOMS...

IF THE
VILLAGERS
REACH L5
IN EITHER
SYNDROME...

IRIE...

THIS IS
MERELY A
GUESS,
BUT...

RIKA-
SAN,



I THINK
THAT BOTH
SYNDROMES
WOULD SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY
REACH
TERMINAL
SYMPTOMS...

IF ONE
SYNDROME
REACHES L5,
THE OTHER
PARASITE THE
BODY HAD GROWN
ACCUSTOMED
TO WILL BE THROWN
OFF BALANCE BY
THE INTENSE
MENTAL
LOAD...

...AND, AS
A RESULT...



A...

...DOUBLE
OUTBREAK...

THAT'S
A RECIPE
FOR A
TERRIFYING,
BLOOD-
THIRSTY
MASS
MURDERER.

WHAT
CAN WE EVEN
DO ABOUT
THAT...?

THE PERSECUTION
COMPLEX AND
AGGRESSION
BORN FROM
TERMINAL LEVELS
OF PARANOIA...

COMBINED WITH
THE ELEVATED
SENSE OF PURPOSE,
AND WILLINGNESS
TO GET OTHERS
INVOLVED IN SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE
BEHAVIOR...?

AHA...

Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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